

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 18, 2005

His Excellency Ryoza Kato  
Ambassador of Japan  
2520 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Please accept our appreciation for your personal attention to resolving the Japanese embargo of U.S. beef but to also convey our concern with the hesitation of your government to achieve a final solution.

As you know, U.S. beef has been blocked from Japan since the discovery of a single U.S. case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in December of 2003. Since this time, officials from the U.S. government and the U.S. beef industry have worked diligently to address comprehensively each concern raised by the Japanese government and carry out changes to the U.S. industry to earn the confidence of the Japanese public and your government. Most recently the U.S. Department of Agriculture has agreed to Japanese demands on age verification requirements of animals under the age of 20 months and to changes sought for the Bovine Export Verification program. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has agreed to Japanese requirements for the use of the A40 maturity grade system. We understand the importance of preserving public health. Each of these actions has been taken to ensure food safety, protect animal health and enhance consumer confidence. In many respects these conditions for exporting exceed internationally established scientific requirements, proving our government and our industry are committed to maximizing these efforts.

As you know, Japanese exports to the U.S. in 2003 reached \$118 billion dollars. Of that total, imports of rubber tires accounted for \$1.2 billion - an amount nearly equal to the value of U.S. beef exports to Japan. As you might realize, losing access to valuable markets spells negative economic consequences for entire industries and entire communities. When lost income occurs, unemployment and economic hardship set in, and government has a responsibility to act.

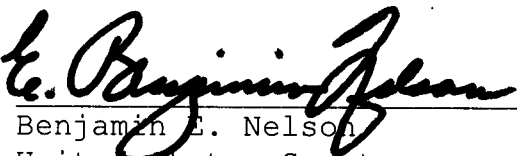
His Excellency Ryozo Kato  
February 18, 2005  
Page 2 of 3


Our government has acted in good faith with Japanese officials to implement appropriate safeguards using internationally recognized science. Regrettably, these attempts have been rejected repeatedly by some in your government who are intent on stopping any resolution of this issue by using unrealistic requirements and dubious science.

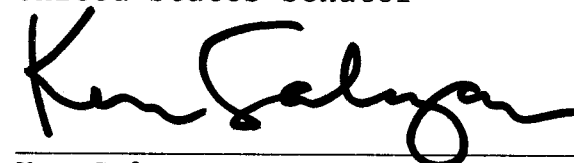
In light of this situation, if the Japanese government fails to lift the ban expeditiously, we are afraid that the U.S. Congress may pursue equitable, retaliatory economic actions against Japan. Our preference is to avoid this course of action, but our livestock producers, our industry workforce and our communities cannot wait a moment longer.

Respectfully,

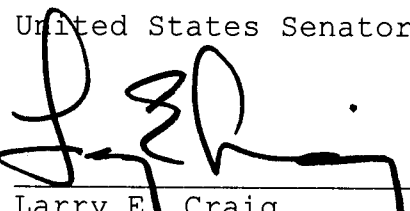
  
Wayne Allard  
United States Senator

  
Benjamin E. Nelson  
United States Senator

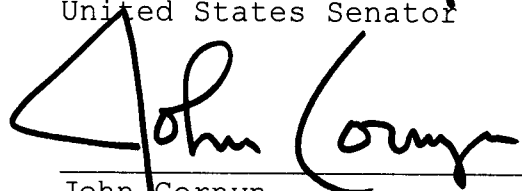
  
Pat Roberts  
United States Senator


  
Ken Salazar  
United States Senator

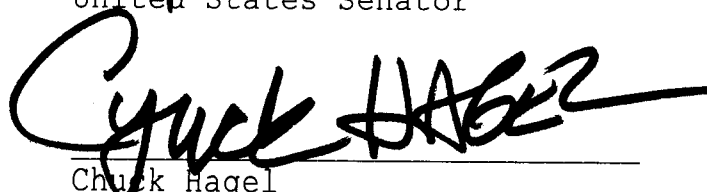
  
James M. Talent  
United States Senator

  
Larry E. Craig  
United States Senator

  
Christopher "Kit" Bond  
United States Senator

  
John Cornyn  
United States Senator

  
Johnny Isakson  
United States Senator

  
Chuck Hagel  
United States Senator



Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



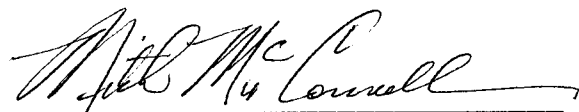
Mike DeWine  
United States Senator



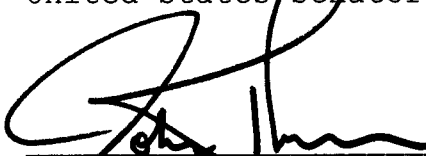
Gordon Smith  
United States Senator



George Voinovich  
United States Senator



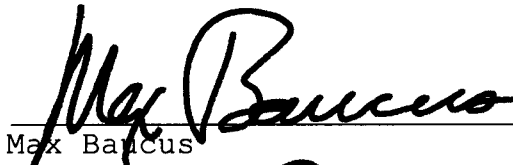
Mitch McConnell  
United States Senator



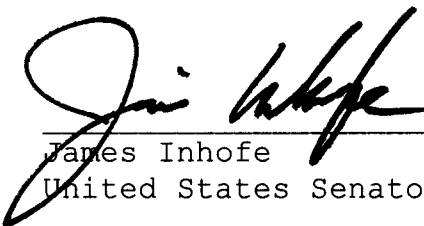
John Thune  
United States Senator



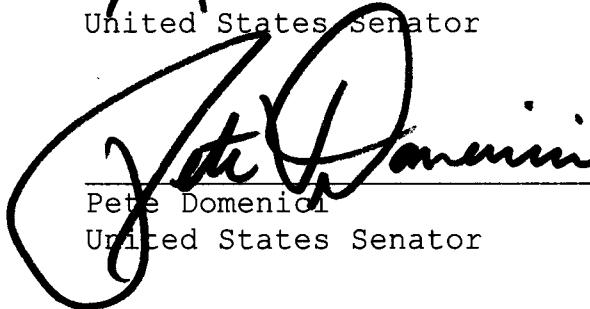
Kay Bailey Hutchison  
United States Senator



Max Baucus  
United States Senator



James Inhofe  
United States Senator



Pete Domenici  
United States Senator